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Listing and Amendments to the Claims

Please rewrite claims 1, 6-9 and 14 as indicated. Please cancel claim 5. Please add claims 17-18.

1. (Currently Amended) Method for driving display means having a predefined display area for displaying a video image being smaller than the display area in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of unused display sections, comprising the steps of

providing a video signal for displaying a video image being smaller than said display area, so that one or more unused display sections remain on the display area, and

driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined signal, said at least one predetermined signal being varied in accordance with said video signal,

wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed on the basis of one or more analysing areas within said display area, said one or more analysing areas directly abutting on said one or more unused areas and wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed by evaluating brightness values concerning the quantity at which brightness level occur in one of said analysing areas and by selecting a brightness level according to a significant quantity at which brightness level occur in a present video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said unused sections include sidebars.

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3-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed by evaluating a histogram of brightness values of one of said analysing areas.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 5 1 wherein said at least one predetermined signal is determined by applying a threshold to said a histogram of brightness values in order to obtain a significant part of a histogram and taking a medium brightness value of said significant part of the histogram for said at least one predetermined signal.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 6 1 wherein the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal is limited to a maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of luminous elements of said display means.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 5 1 wherein the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal is corrected by a predetermined factor.

9. (Currently Amended) Device for driving display means having a predefined display area for displaying a video image being smaller than the display area in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of unused display sections comprising:

determining means for determining one or more unused display sections remaining on the display area when driving said display means with a predetermined video signal and

driving means connected to said determining means for driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined

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signal, said at least one predetermined signal being variable in accordance with said video signal, and

analysing means connected to said driving means for analysing one or more analysing areas within said display area to compute said at least one predetermined signal by evaluating brightness values concerning the quantity at which brightness level occur in said one or more analysing areas directly abutting on said one or more unused areas and selecting a brightness level according to a significant quantity at which brightness level occur in a present video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections.

10. (Original) Device according to claim 9 wherein said unused sections include sidebars.

11-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Amended) Device according to claim 9 wherein said analysing means is capable of forming a histogram of brightness values of one of said analysing areas for computing said at least one predetermined signal.

14. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 13, wherein said analysing means is capable of applying a threshold to said histogram in order to obtain a significant part of the histogram and taking a medium brightness value of said significant part of the histogram for said at least one predetermined signal.

15. (Original) Device according to claim 9 wherein said driving means is capable of limiting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal to a maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of the luminous

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elements of said display means.

16. (Original) Device according to claim 9 wherein said driving means is capable of correcting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal by a predetermined factor.

17. (New) Device according to claim 9, wherein the significant quantity at which brightness level occur in a present video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections corresponds to the mid value of the brightness distribution of the video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas.

18. (New) Method according to claim 1, wherein the significant quantity at which brightness level occur in a present video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections corresponds to the mid value of the brightness distribution of the video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas.